THEY KEEP PICKING ON YOU BECAUSE YOU START CRYING SO EASILY.
IF WHAT THEY SAY MAKES YOU FEEL SO BAD THAT YOU WANT TO BURST INTO TEARS,
THEN JUST PUT UP SOME FIGHT, DUMMY
ぎゅっ
YOU GO HOME AHEAD OF ME.
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LET'S TAKE A PIC WITH OUR CELLS NEXT TIME!
HE TURNS TOTALLY RED IN THE FACE FROM SO LITTLE!
HAHA HA! THAT KID!
RYOU-SUKE !!!
YOU WERE BULLYING HARUICHI AGAIN, WEREN'T YOU.

SOME PUNISHMENT IS IN ORDER, THEN.
フェイス
Face
THE KOMINATO RYOUSUKE SPECIAL SIDE-STORY
SH- SHUT UP! ACTING ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY WHEN YOU'RE JUST A SHRIMP!
BODY SIZE HAS NO RELATION TO THIS
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I HATED YOU FROM THE GET-GO, TOO!!!

THE ELDEST SON MUST BEHAVE LIKE A GOOD BOY.
KYAA! RYOU-CHAN!
THE ELDEST SON MUST NOT BE SELFISH.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!
I FELL.
YOUR CLOTHES ARE IN TATTERS!
FELL...? BUT THAT'S BLOOD ON YOU...? IT'S BLOOD, ISN'T IT?!
I'M FINE.
DEAR! COME HERE!
THE ELDEST SON MUST PROTECT HIS YOUNGER SIBLING.
BUT YOU ...!
RYOU-CHAN...

BEING A BIG BROTHER IS SUCH A PAIN.
OOH, HE CAUGHT ANOTHER ONE!

WAAH~~ WHAT GRADE IS THAT BOY IN?
AMAZ-ING!
Tch!
HE'S SUCH A CUTE KID!
HIS NAME IS RYOUSUKE-KUN.
THERE MAY BE A POSITION SUITABLE TO YOU AS WELL, HARUICHI
IN BASEBALL, THERE ARE 9 POSITIONS.
EACH OF THE PLAYERS CONTRIBUTES TO THE TEAM BY PERFORMING HIS ROLE.

EH? YOU WANT TO PLAY SECOND BASEMAN?
Victoria
BUT THAT'S RYOUSUKE'S POSITION...
YOU OKAY WITH NOT PARTICIPATING IN MATCHES THEN?
SHIICHAN
WHY NOT LET HIM DO AS HE PLEASES?
HE'S BEEN TRYING TO COPY ME SINCE HE WAS A TODDLER, AFTER ALL.
Victoria
ぎゅっ

WOW, HE CAUGHT IT.
AND TOSSED IT PERFECTLY!
ZU
HIS BASEBALL SENSE IS INCREDIBLE!
EVEN THOUGH HE'S 2 YEARS YOUNGER THAN YOU,
RYOUSUKE, YOUR LITTLE BROTHER IS AMAZING!

H-HARUICHI IS EATING TOMATOES HE HATES SO MUCH...!
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THEN YOU CAN HAVE THESE AS WELL.
HE SAID IF RYOU-CHAN EATS THEM, HE WILL, TOO...
H-HEY... JUST HOW OLD IS THIS BOY ...?
110 KG ....
MAKE SURE TO SWING THROUGH PROPERLY!
DON'T LET THE BALL PUSH YOU BACK
バッティング

THAT WAS A GROUNDER STRAIGHT TO THE PITCHER.
ポコ
WH-WHAT ARE THESE SIBLINGS?
DAD, WE'RE OUT OF COINS HERE.
THEY'RE UNNAELIE-VABLE...!
BETTER TAKE THIS ONE. IT'S METAL AND IT'S LIGHT.
YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH FOR ANYTHING ELSE YET ANYWAY
IT'S 10 YEARS TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO TRY WOODEN BATS.
NO, I WANT THIS ONE!

CAN I CALL YOU ANIKI FROM NOW ON?
RYOU-CHAN... RYOU-CHAN.
THINK YOU'RE NOW STRONG ENOUGH, HUH?
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?
NOT THAT I MIND THOUGH.
Wow
CONTRARY TO HIS DELICATE LOOKS, HE IS STUBBORN AND SELF-WILLED.

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THAT SIMPLE-MINDED SMILE OF HIS
I did it
LEAVES EVEN ME FLUSTERED.
4 YEARS LATER ---
SIGN: YOUKOU MIDDLE SCHOOL
陽光中学校
TEACHERS' ROOM
RYOUSUKE, I'M REALLY SORRY

SO NOW YOUR RECOMMEN-DATION IS VOID...
THEIR COACH TOOK A LIKING TO YOU, BUT...
THAT SCHOOL'S MAIN COACH PREFERS TO HAVE PLAYERS OF LARGE BUILT ON HIS TEAM...
WELL... JUMBO'S BEEN WORKING HARD, TOO, SO I'M HAPPY FOR HIM, BUT...
Wa ha ha!
Finally my time has come!
IN OTHER WORDS, STATURE-WISE, THEY WANT JUMBO...
REFUSED ON THE GROUNDS OF MY SMALL STATURE...?
THEY'VE MADE A DECISION WITHOUT EVEN WATCHING MY PLAYS, HUH.
ANYWAY THERE ARE OTHER TEAMS OUT THERE THAT WANT YOU, YOU KNOW.
SO DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU.

SEIDOU HIGH SCHOOL...? THE ONE IN TOKYO...?
WHAT THE HECK'S UP WITH THAT...
BUT... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO COMMUTE FROM HOME IF YOU ENROLL IN SEIDOU, NO?
EEH~~~~ RYOU-CHAN, IT MEANS YOU WILL BE LEAVING HOME, YOU KNOW?
YES, I DO.
THEY HAVE A DORM, SO IT'S NOT A PROBLEM
THAT, AND YOU WON'T GET TO EAT YOUR MOM'S DELICIOUS HAND-MADE MEALS ANYMORE, YOU REALIZE?
IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T HAVE OFFERS FROM HIGH SCHOOLS CLOSE BY. BUT I FEEL I'LL GO SOFT IF I STAY HOME.
IF I'M GOING TO PLAY BASEBALL, IT'S BETTER TO DO IT IN A HARSHER EVIRONMENT THAT WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO TEST MYSELF

THIS IS MY FIRST AND LAST SELFISH REQUEST.
PLEASE LET ME GO TO TOKYO.
THERE ARE SO MANY STRONG TEAMS CLOSE BY
WHY?
NO SPECIAL REASON
EH TO TOKYO?
CATCH UP TO ME IF YOU CAN.
IF I SAY THAT SUCH A THOUGHT NEVER CROSSED MY MIND, I WILL BE LYING.
I'D BETTER DO IT IN A STRICT ENVIRONMENT
IF I AM GOING TO SPEND THE THREE YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL LIFE ON BASEBALL ANYWAY
IT WAS TROUBLESOME ENOUGH TO GET MOM AND DAD TO AGREE TO LET ME GO
DON'T TRY TO COPY ME

BUT... THIS IS MY QUEST, MY CHALLENGE TO MYSELF...
...TO SEE HOW WELL I CAN FAIR FAR AWAY FROM MY FAMILY...
THAT UNIFORM IS TOO BIG FOR YOU
NO PROBLEM. I INTEND TO GROW ENOUGH FOR IT TO BE A PERFECT FIT FOR ME EVENTUALLY!
WHAT'S WRONG, FIRST YEARS?!
DON'T STOP MOVING YOUR CHO--

GAHAHAHA! THE NEW FIRST YEARS SURE ARE WEAKLINGS!
OUTTA STEAM ALREADY, AIN'T THEY!
WHERE EXACTLY? YER TOTALLY DEAD-BEAT
I PERSONALLY AM STILL FULL OF VIGOR
NO, I AM STILL FINE
NP.
S-SAYING SUCH WORDS... TO THE COACH...
HE ROASTS THE STRONG-EST SPIRIT AMONG ALL THE FIRST YEARS.
Hahaha! Not half-bad, ain't he!
HIT IT HERE! I'M NOT NEARLY DONE YET! KEEP 'EM COMING!
WHAT IS IT, A WALK IN THE PARK OR SOMETHING?!

AHGH MY WHOLE BODY HURTS
YOU KNOW, RYOUSUKE...
HAKUICHI HIT TWO TIMES TODAY AS WELL!
HE SWINGS HIS BAT EVERY DAY!
HE WAS MOVED UP THE LINEUP AND IS NOW HITTING CLEANUP!
HE CAN HARDLY WAIT TO GO TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL AS YOU
Saku
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ブホ

SO IT'S NOTHING NEW...
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A GUY WHO TRIED TO COPY ME IN EVERYTHING,
SNICKER
OH WELL... I HAD A FEELING THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
UH-HUH, I'M DOING GRE...T HERE, TOO.
SAY HI TO MOM FOR ME...
I CAN'T LOSE FACE IN FRONT OF HIM.
NOR CAN I LOSE TO HIM.

AND ABOVE ALL,
I CAN'T BETRAY HIS EXPECTA-TIONS.
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ブン
BEING A BIG BROTHER IS REALLY SUCH A PAIN.
Hmph

YOU GUYS SURE ARE EARLY.
IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE LATE!
NR.
WHO WERE YOU TALKING TO ON THE PHONE?
YUP, IT WAS!
DON'T TELL ME IT WAS A GIRL?!
NWHA?!
I'M JUST KIDDING!
WHY ARE YOU MAKING SUCH FACES, GUYS?
SNICKER SNICKER
GURR RRR!!!
END